

Brentwood Urban District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(SAMUEL FRAZER, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., &c. Fellow
of the Royal Institute of Public Health).

FOR THE YEAR 1907.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,—

I have the pleasure of submitting to you my Annual Report on the Sanitary Condition of Brentwood, which is the ninth I have prepared, since becoming your Medical Officer of Health.

The Report is primarily intended for the information of the Local Government Board and County Council, but I trust it is also of service to you and to those whose interests, from a public health point of view, are committed to your charge.

It will be found that the desired information is arranged under certain headings suggested in a memorandum from the Local Government Board on the preparation of Annual Reports.

The usual tables of statistical information are similar to those furnished in previous years and a special report treating in detail of the inspection of work carried out under the Factories and Workshops' Act of 1901, as well as a summary of the work effected by the Sanitary Inspector, will be found at the end of the Report.

1.—General Character of the District.

The Urban District of Brentwood was constituted an Urban Authority in April, 1899, and consists solely of the old Parish of Brentwood.

It was contemplated at the time of the formation of the Urban Authority to include in the District the thickly populated parts of the parishes of Shenfield, South Weald and Great Warley, which immediately adjoin Brentwood, but owing to the want of unanimity amongst those promoting the scheme, the original proposal was dropped, and the present anomalous position of having a town practically divided in two parts, one half being administered as an Urban Authority, and the other half under the control of two Rural Authorities six or seven miles away, is the result.

The area of the District is, according to the Ordnance Map, 459 acres, and it is situated for the most part on an elevated position on the London and Colchester Road, between Romford and Chelmsford.

There is a small brook running between Brentwood and the parishes of Shenfield and South Weald, which takes most of the surface drainage of the District, and which eventually discharges into the Ingrebourne Brook, near Brook Street.

Brewing, the manufacture of Agricultural Implements, and Brickmaking, are the principal industries. A large number of persons, whose occupations are in London, reside in the District, the remainder being employed in the different places of business and workshops.

2.—*The Housing of the People.*

House accommodation has for several years been a prominent subject in the yearly Reports, and it is gratifying to be able to announce a general improvement in the condition of the dwellings of the working classes. Generally speaking, the number of houses is adequate, but there is still a demand for the class of dwelling which could be let at about four shillings a week.

The number of houses completed from the previous year was 40, and the number erected last year was 27, making a total of 67 new houses. Of these, 14 are still unoccupied.

The number of houses in 1901 was 916, and according to the Census of that year the population was 4932.

It is interesting and gratifying to compare these figures with those for the year 1907 :—

Total number of houses, excluding Schools and Institutions ...	1346
Inhabited houses	1250
Houses used as Shops, Offices or Store-rooms ...	37
Houses unoccupied	59

Taking the population on the inhabited houses only, allowing 5 to each house, we get a population of 6250.

But besides that number there are the following Schools and Institutions to be reckoned, namely :—

Hackney Training Schools	535
St. Charles' Schools	225
Highwood Schools	355
Convent School	60
Grammar School	18
Ursuline Convent School	45
Jewish Home	40
Convalescent Home	14
Total	<hr/> 1292 <hr/>

That is, 1292 children and others living in Brentwood, but belonging to outside, which number added to the number of those belonging to the District makes the total population amount to 7542.

There has been no overcrowding detected, except in one case during holiday time for a few days.

3.—*Sewerage and Drainage.*

The Sewerage System being the joint property of the Brentwood Urban and the Billericay Rural District Councils, is controlled by a Committee consisting of nine members, six representing Brentwood and three representing Billericay.

There is no doubt, as I have pointed out in previous Reports, that this dual control has been the cause of great delay and unnecessary expense, more especially as up to last year no criticism of the joint Committee's reports was allowed, and the Committee was therefore, to all intents and purposes, an absolutely independent Authority.

During last year, since these reports have been open to criticism, genuine efforts are being made to improve the whole Sewerage system, and with this end in view, further expert medical and engineering advice has been obtained, which I understand will be acted upon, and which will I believe go a long way towards effectually remedying the present unsatisfactory state of affairs.

I have, in the course of my duty on previous occasions, found it incumbent upon me to advert to this subject in terms far from flattering, and it is therefore with pleasure I refrain from further criticism, being assured that a good Scheme is in hand, and that it will be brought to a successful issue.

In the meantime temporary measures are being carried out by the Surveyor, Mr. Meeson, which will prevent friction with other authorities, and allow the permanent Scheme to be proceeded with without delay.

4.—Excrement Disposal.

The better class houses are supplied with flushing apparatus in the w.c.'s, and progress is being made in persuading the owners of cottage property to substitute this modern improvement for the old hand-flushing closets.

5.—Removal of House Refuse.

The arrangement at present is that a Contractor is engaged to cart the refuse away once a week in a closed van provided by the Council, and to find a suitable dumping ground. It has not been thought practicable or expedient to alter this plan at present, but there certainly will come a time when, for want of a suitable dumping ground, it will be necessary to provide a destructor for destroying the refuse under the direct supervision of the Surveyor.

6.—Water Supply.

The town is supplied with water by the South Essex Waterworks Company, and there has been no reason for complaint during the year.

7.—Places over which the Council have Supervision.

No offensive trades are carried on in the District, and there is only one Common Lodging House, which with the Bakehouses and Slaughterhouses have been regularly inspected, and found in a fairly Sanitary condition.

Workshops and workplaces have been periodically inspected as may be seen by reference to special Report appended. There are three Daries and one Cowshed which have also been regularly inspected.

8.—Nuisances.

Seventeen complaints of nuisances were received, of which, 12 related to house refuse, and there were 416 nuisances detected without complaint, making 433 nuisances detected altogether. Of these 425 have been abated.

Two summonses were taken out, but the cases were settled out of Court.

There were 340 houses and premises inspected, which goes to show that with all the many duties the Surveyor has to do, he has not, as Inspector, neglected the duty of systematic inspection.

9.—*Bye Laws.*

Some points which dealt rather harshly in the Bye-laws with respect to new buildings have been altered so that all cause of friction has been removed and they are now carried out without opposition, or complaint.

10.—*Method of dealing with Infectious Disease.*

There is no Isolation Hospital in the District but there is an arrangement with the Rural Authority of Billericay whereby infectious cases can be received into the Isolation Hospital at Billericay. During the year, of the ten cases removed to Infectious Hospitals, six were received at Billericay, the other four cases being removed to London. Seven cases were treated at their own homes. In cases where the patients are not removed to hospital every precaution is taken to prevent the spread of the disease, and when convalescence is notified, the bedding, fabrics, and other infected articles are subject to disinfection by means of 'Thresh's Portable Disinfectant'; all woodwork scrubbed with a disinfectant solution and afterwards washed with soft soap and water, and the ceilings and walls are washed with hot lime containing disinfectant. Then a spray apparatus is used to impregnate furniture, &c. with disinfectant.

In cases of diphtheria, antitoxin is supplied by the Council free on application of the medical attendant.

11.—*Prevalence of Infectious Disease.*

There were only 17 cases of infectious diseases notified during the year, being with the exception of the year 1903 (when there were only 16) the smallest number of cases since the formation of the Urban District. The average number for the last eight years is 29.

Vital Statistics.

There were 46 deaths registered in the District, and 14 deaths of persons belonging to the District but occurring outside it, so that the total number of deaths of persons belonging to the District would be 60. I have estimated the total population of the District to be 7542, but as I have already stated, this includes 1292 children and others living in the Schools and Homes and who do not, I think, really belong to Brentwood.

Taking the total population of 7542, the death-rate would be 7.9 per 1000 persons living. But if we exclude those living in the Schools and Homes, we should then reckon only a population of of 6250, which would make the death-rate 9.6.

Of the total number of deaths 39 were males and 21 females, the oldest being 86.

There were four inquests, namely :—suicide by hanging, 1 ; found dead, 1 ; accidents, 2.

13.—Zymotic Death-Rate.

The deaths from the seven principal zymotic diseases during the year were 2, both being due to measles. This is equivalent to a zymotic death-rate of .26 on the whole population and is the lowest since the formation of the Urban District.

The following are the figures for the last five years :—

1903	1.06
1904	.49
1905	.32
1906	.93
1907	.26
Average for 5 years	61

14.—Infantile Mortality.

Nine children under one year of age died during the year, and as 130 births were registered, the mortality was at the rate of 69.7 per 1000 births. This is also the lowest rate recorded for the Dis

trict. For the last five years this rate was as follows :

1903	84.9
1904	78.4
1905	92.6
1906	94.7
1907	69.7
Average for 5 years	84

15.—*Birth-rate.*

There were 130 births registered during the year which would be equivalent to a birth-rate of 17.2 per 1000 of the whole population but if we allow for the 1000 children at the Schools and Homes we get a corrected birth-rate of 20.3.

The following table shows the death, birth, and zymotic rates, and infant mortality.

Population, census of 1901	4932
Population, estimated to middle of 1907	7452
Deaths registered in the District	46
Corrections	+ 14
Death-rate on whole population	7.9
Death-rate (excluding Schools)	9.6
Zymotic death-rate	.26
Birth-rate on whole population	17.2
Birth-rate (excluding Schools)	20.3
Infant mortality	69.7

The above resumé of the year's work and statistics is on the whole very satisfactory. Considerable sanitary improvements have been made and other important ones are under consideration, which are urgently needed and which, if brought to a successful issue without undue delay, will materially improve the sanitary condition of the District, and reflect great credit on the Council.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

SAMUEL FRAZER,

Medical Officer of Health, U. D. C. Brentwood.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1907 and previous Years.

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Year.	Popula- tion estimated to Middle of each Year.	Births.		Total Deaths Registered in the District.					Deaths of Deaths of Non- Residents registered in Public Institu- tions in the District.		Deaths of Deaths of Non- Residents registered in Public Institu- tions beyond the District.		Nett Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District.		
		Number.	Rate.*	Under 1 Year of Age		At all ages.		Public Institu- tions in the District.	Institu- tions in the District.	Public Institu- tions beyond the District.	Number.	Rate.*	Number.	Rate.*	
				Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered	Number.	Rate.*								
															5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1	2	3	4												
1899	5270	84	15.9	13	154.7	57	10.8	4	4	7	60	11.3			
1900	5355	135	27.9	12	88.8	62	11.5	1	1	8	69	13.05			
1901	4957	82	16.5	10	121.9	48	9.6	0	0	5	53	10.69			
1902	5157	91	17.6	12	131.8	44	8.5	0	0	12	56	10.8			
1903	5657	106	18.7	9	84.9	53	9.3	4	4	5	54	9.56			
1904	6098	102	16.7	8	78.4	58	9.5	1	1	10	68	11.1			
1905	6243	108	17.3	10	92.6	46	7.3	0	0	9	55	8.8			
1906	6438	116	18	10	86.2	53	8.2	2	2	10	63	9.8			
Averages for years 1899-1906	5646	103	18.5	10.5	104.9	52.6	9.3	1.5	1.5	8.25	59.6	10.6			
1907	7542	130	17.2	10	76.9	46	6	0	0	14	6	7.9			

* Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 13 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

NOTE.—The deaths included in Column 7 of this table are the whole of those registered during the year as having actually occurred within the district or division. The deaths included in Column 12 are the number in Column 7, corrected by the subtraction of the number in Column 10 and the addition of the number in Column 11.

By the term "Non-residents" is meant persons brought into the district on account of sickness or infirmity, and dying in public institutions there; and by the term "Residents" is meant persons who have been taken out of the district on account of sickness or infirmity, and have died in public institutions elsewhere (workhouse).

The "Public Institutions" to be taken into account for the purposes of these Tables are those into which persons are habitually received on account of sickness or infirmity, such as hospitals, workhouses and lunatic asylums. A list of the Institutions in respect of the deaths in which corrections have been made is given at foot of this Table.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water)...459.

Total population at all ages..... 4932 }
Number of inhabited houses..... 916 } At Census
Average number of persons per house...5.5 } of 1901.

TABLE III.

**Cases of Infectious Disease notified during
the Year 1907.**

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.								No. of cases removed to Hospital.
	At Ages— Years.								
	At all Ages.	Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and upwds.		
Small-pox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Membranous croup } ...	2	...	1	1	...	...	...	2
Erysipelas	2	...	...	1	...	1	...	...
Scarlet fever	11	...	...	9	1	1	...	8
Typhus fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric fever	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Relapsing fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Continued fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal fever	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Plague ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	17	...	1	11	2	3	...	10	

Isolation Hospital, near Billericay, belonging to Billericay R. D. Council.

TABLE IV.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1907.

CAUSES OF DEATH. 1	DEATHS IN OR BELONGING TO WHOLE DISTRICT AT SUBJOINED AGES.							Total deaths in pul- lic in- stitu- tions in Distct. 16
	All ages. 2	Under 1 year. 3	1 and under 5 4	5 and under 15 5	15 and under 25 6	25 and under 65 7	65 and up- wards. 8	
Small-pox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	2	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
Scarlet fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping-cough ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and membranous croup ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Croup ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fever { Typhus ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Enteric ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Other continued ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Epidemic influenza ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhoea ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteritis	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other septic diseases ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis	2	...	...	...	...	2	...	...
Other tubercular diseases	2	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
Cancer, malignant disease	6	...	...	...	...	3	3	...
Bronchitis	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Pneumonia	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Pleurisy	2	...	...	1	...	1	...	...
Other diseases of respiratory organs ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Alcoholism, Cirrhosis of liver	3	...	...	...	...	2	1	...
Venereal diseases	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Premature birth	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Heart diseases	6	...	...	...	...	6	...	...
Accidents	2	...	...	...	1	1	...	...
Suicides	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Old Age	5	...	...	...	...	...	5	...
Apoplexy	3	...	...	...	...	1	2	...
Nephritis	4	...	...	...	...	1	3	...
Congenital diseases	5	4	1	...	...	...	...	...
All other causes	12	3	1	...	...	7	1	...
All causes	60	10	5	3	1	26	15	...

TABLE V.

Infantile Mortality during the Year 1907.

Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One
Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1-2 Months.	4-5 Months.	5-6 Months.	6-7 Months.	Total Deaths under 1 year.
All Causes (certified) ...	3	1	1	5	1	2	1	1	10
Premature Birth ...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Atrophy, Debility ...	1	...	1	2	1	1	...	...	4
Tuberculous Meningitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Convulsions ...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Other Causes ...	1	...	...	1	...	...	1	1	3

Factory and Workshops Act, 1901.

REPORT FOR 1907.

Fourteen Factories, 71 Workshops and 5 Workplaces were Inspected during the year.

Twenty-five defects were found, which were remedied.

There are 9 Bakehouses ; 2 of which are underground.

There are 14 Factories ; 2 of which are Laundries. None of the premises have more than 40 workpeople.

Eight failures to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act were notified to H.M. Inspector.

Summary of Work done through the Sanitary Inspector.

In the Urban Sanitary District of Brentwood during the Year ending December 31st. 1907.

	<i>Total Number for Year</i>	<i>Notes, Results of Inspection, &c,</i>
1 Complaints received	17	12 of which related to house refuse not cleared.
2 Nuisances detected without complaint	416	
3 Nuisances abated	425	
4 Notices served	6	
5 Summonses taken out	2	
6 Premises and Cottages inspected	340	One settled by owner doing work and paying costs, and the other withdrawn on the advice of the Clerk.
7 Lodging-houses inspected	1	Visited periodically
8 Slaughter-houses inspected	8	do do
9 Bakehouses inspected	9	do do 2 are underground
10 Dairies & Milk Shops inspected	3	do do
11 Cowsheds inspected	1	do do
12 Workshops inspected	90	
13 Houses disinfected	16	Involving the disinfecting of 211 articles
14 Overcrowding abated	1	Visitors at Christmas
15 Houses placed in habitable repair	2	
16 Houses erected or-rebuilt for which Water "Certificates" were applied	67	NOTE.—40 of these were partly erected and connected to the sewers and water mains during December, 1906.
17 "Certificates" granted	67	
18 Wells sunk or improved supplies of Water afforded	2	
19 Wells closed	3	1 of which the cottages already had Companys water laid on.
20 Houses connected with sewers	27	NOTE.—40 others were connected to the sewers and water mains, Dec. 1906.
21 ,, ,, with water mains	29	The extra two previously had Well water which was of a doubtful character.
22 Privies and W.C.'s repaired ; W.C.'s supplied with water New Flushing cisterns fixed }	40	Of which 24 were provided with New W.C.'s., and 15 with new Flushing Cisterns.
23 Cisterns cleansed, repaired, or covered	27	

(Signed) A. JAMES MEESON,
Associate the Royal Sanitary Institute.

